THOSE WHO HAVE NO WILL TO FIGHT, LEAVE THE BATTLEFIELD!

ATTENTION! SOLDIERS OF MARPHA!

I HAVE DEFEATED VERDANE'S FIRST PRINCE, GANDOLF!

AT ONCE!!!!

PRINCE GANDOLF !!

UWAAH!!

GANDOLF WAS A FOOL TO RILE YOU UP LIKE THAT...

.....

YEAH.

...EVERYONE FLED.

Hm... ...

SO, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NEXT?
ABOUT THAT...
I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS TO ENTRUST OUR HOPES FOR PEACE IN PRINCE JAMKA WHO IS CURRENTLY AT VERDANE CASTLE.
UNTIL WE RECEIVE WORD ON HIS PROPOSAL I WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL AROUND TO THE SURROUNDING AREAS NEAR THE CASTLE. UNFORTUNATELY...
...WE ARE PROBABLY VIEWED AS UNWELCOME INVADERS TO THE PEOPLE HERE...I WONDER IF THEY WILL ACCEPT WHAT WE HAVE DONE.
LORD SIGURD.
WHAT IS IT, NOISH?
THERE ARE SOME MESSENGERS HERE FROM THE AREAS SURROUNDING MARPHA. THE ELDEST ONE SAID HE WISHES TO SEE YOU...
EH...?

I CAN'T EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU IN WORDS.
OOH..! SO YOU ARE SIR SIGURD?
I AM SIGURD...
YES...YOU DEFEATED THOSE TWO TYRANNICAL PRINCES FOR US.
OF COURSE, WE NEARBY VILLAGERS ARE DELIGHTED AT YOUR ACTIONS.
SURPRISED
GRATI TUDE?
IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE...EVEN THOUGH HE IS THEIR BROTHER; LORD JAMKA IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KIND OF PERSON.
THIS COUNTRY'S FIRST TWO PRINCES EACH TREATED THEIR OWN TERRITORIES AS THEY PLEASED.
THE ARMY WOULD UNLEASH GROUPS OF RUFFIANS WHO WOULD COMMIT ACTS OF THIEVERY AND VIOLENCE EVERY DAY IN THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES.

YES...EVER SINCE THIS COUNTRY HAS BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS WAR...
LORD JAMKA HAS BEEN THIS COUNTRY'S ONLY HOPE FOR PEACE.
SO I SEE EVERYONE HERE DEEPLY TRUSTS IN PRINCE JAMKA, HUH?

I'M SURE THE PEOPLE HERE ALSO WISH FOR THE SAME THING.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STAY IN THIS CASTLE FOR THE TIME BEING.

T...THAT CAN'T BE!
I BELIEVE HE WILL BE MARCHING INTO OUR MAIN CAMP ANY MINUTE NOW!
LORD ELLIOT!
OUR ARMY HAS BEEN OBLITERATED BY THE CROSS KNIGHTS LED BY KING ELTOSHAN!

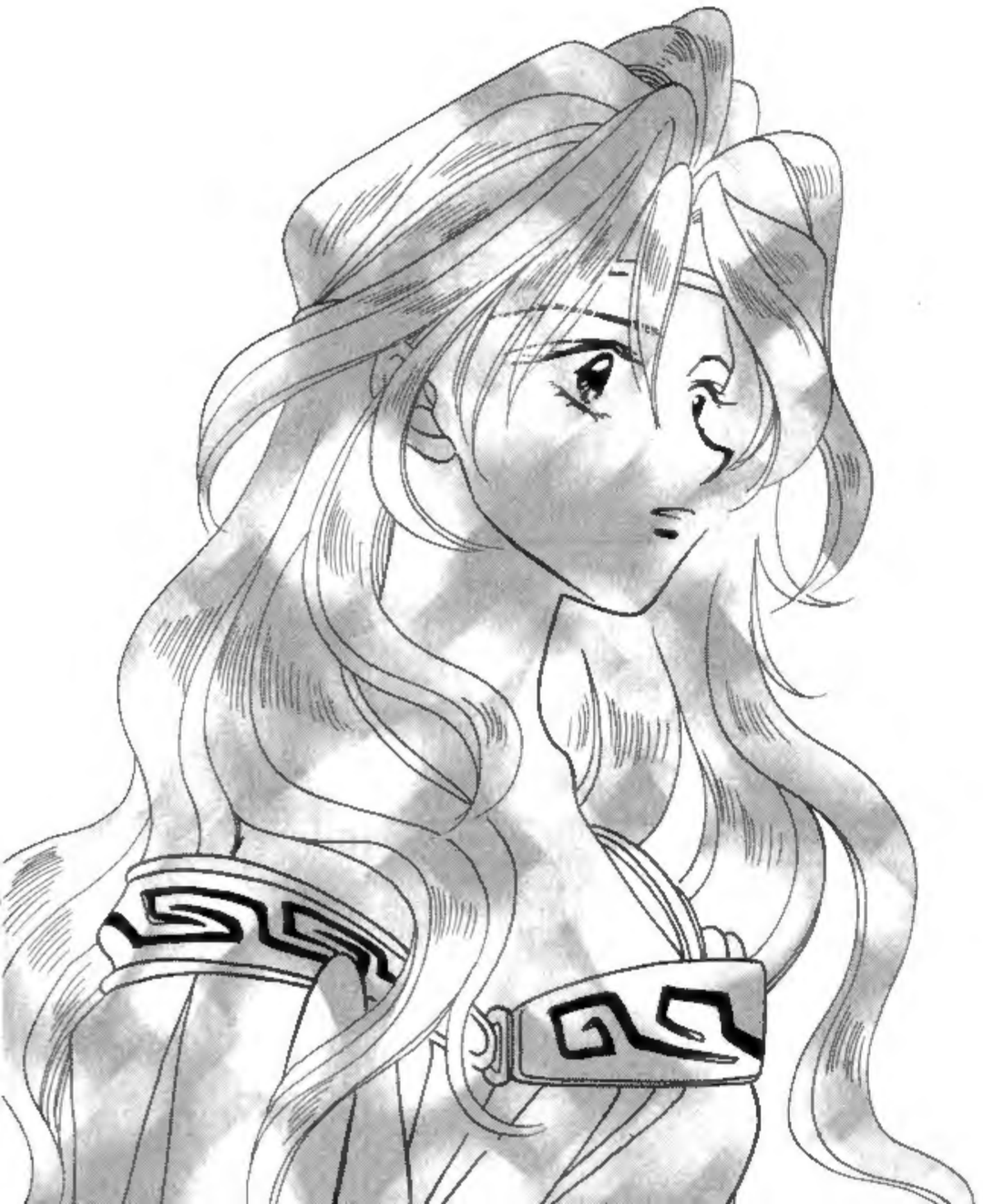
すたっ
!!
IT APPEARS HE IS ALREADY HERE!
"PROWLING" ...I BELIEVE IT'S CALLED.
DURING THE TIME SINCE WE LAST MET IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE DEVELOPED A REAL LIKING TO A NEW HOBBY.
LONG TIME NO SEE, ELLIOT.
RETURN TO HEIRHEIN AND RETRAIN YOUR TROOPS FROM SCRATCH, SOUND GOOD?
YES SIR!
びっ!
AH
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE TO HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR HOBBY.
EEEEEYYY! YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES, ELTOSHAN!!
TIME AND TIME AGAIN, ALL YOU DO IS GET IN MY WAY!

LORD ELLIOT !!
DAMMIT! I WON'T FORGET THIS!
HMPH...HIS DETERMINATION TO NEVER FORGET TO GET THE LAST WORD IN IS REALLY SOMETHING.
WELL THEN, SHALL WE RETURN TO THE CASTLE?
OH BY THE WAY, ETHLIN.
WHEN I WAS BEING HELD HOSTAGE IN THIS CASTLE, I BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH A BEAUTIFUL PERSON IN THE CASTLE TOWN.
SHE WAS AN IMPRESSIVE YOUNG WOMAN WITH BEAUTIFUL SILVER HAIR AND CLEAR AMETHYST EYES...
WOW, HOW LOVELY. SHE SOUNDS LIKE A FAIRY FROM A FAIRY TALE. ♡
KYAA!
RIGHT? YOU THINK SO TOO?

HOW MEANNNN! CALLING ME A CHILD!
AND YOU ALMOST LAUGHED TOO.
SHOCKED
CUT IT OUT... ETHLIN.
...I'M GOING TO GET SOME FRESH AIR.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT BROTHER, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
"A FAIRY FROM A FAIRY-TALE." YOU ARE STILL LIKE A CHILD, ETHLIN.
FUU
BETS LIKE HOW MANY GIRLS THEY COULD GET EACH MONTH..
BOTH ELTO AND HIM USED TO MAKE BETS ALL THE TIME.
BUT YOU KNOW, SIGURD WAS QUITE POPULAR WITH THE YOUNG ARISTOCRATIC WOMAN DURING OUR TIME AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY.
HE RAN AWAY, CUAN!!
I WON!
HO HO HO
AAAAH! HE RAN AWAY!
CALM DOWN, ETHLIN.
THE UNFORSEEN PRICE OF MARRIAGE
NO.
EH?
I...
SHAKE SHAKE
... EVERY BODY ...?
THEN, YOU TOO!?
I DIDN'T KNOW!
NO WAY! THAT'S FILTHY!
NOW YOU DO
BUT YOU KNOW, AT THAT AGE, EVERYBODY ACTS THAT WAY.
OUT WITH IIIIIT!
WAAAH
A WORLD UNFAMILIAR TO HER IS UNFOLDING BEFORE HER VERY EYES.
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP

ガヤガヤ
HMM?
QUITE A LIVELY TOWN HERE.
ガヤガヤ
KYAA
NO, PLEASE LET GO OF ME!
LET US SHOW YOU AROUND TOWN.
DON'T BE SO STUBBORN, YOU WON'T REGRET IT.
I MUST BE GETTING HOME NO MATTER WHAT!
I BEG OF YOU, LET GO...
YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING YOU ARE GOING TO REGRET.

SHE DOESN'T LIKE, YOU OKAY? UNHAND HER.
!!!



HAA
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE
..ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE NOT HURT?
THANK YOU SO MUCH, LORD SIGURD.
AH... YES.
HEY, HE'S THAT GRANDBELL HOLY KNIGHT! OH CRAP!
GEH...!? THIS IS HIM?
AHHH ...
THEY SAY HE IS ABSURDLY STRONG!

A WOMAN WITH SILVER HAIR AND AMETHYST EYES...
..WHAT SHOULD I ADDRESS YOU AS?
BECAUSE YOU ARE JUST AS I IMAGINED YOU WOULD BE...
...EARLIER ADEAN WAS TALKING ABOUT..
! YOU KNOW MY NAME?
YES. SOME TIME AGO WHEN I ARRIVED IN MARPHA, I MET A WOMAN WHO WENT BY THE NAME OF ADEAN WHO TOLD ME STORIES OF YOU .
...AND I IMMEDIATELY REALIZED THAT YOU ARE THE LORD SIGURD SHE DESCRIBED.
..I'M SORRY!
AH!
...
THAT'S ...
..AH. .
THEN, I SHALL ESCORT YOU. WHERE IS YOUR HOME?
I...MUST BE GETTING HOME...

WAIT! I JUST WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT LONGER..
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG, SIR SIGURD?
JUST NOW ..THAT YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HERE, WHO IS SHE?
WHAT IS HER NAME...?
ELDER ...
HOOOOH. I SEE THAT EVEN PEOPLE LIKE YOU HAVE A WEAKNESS TOWARDS BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
HAHAHA
QUIT POKING FUN AT ME AND PLEASE JUST TELL ME!
HO HO HO..YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE JUST SEEN AN ILLUSION.

BUT, SHE IS NOT ALLOWED TO MINGLE WITH PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. FOR IT IS SAID THAT SHE WOULD BE IMPOSING ON HER DESTINY.
HER NAME IS "DIADORA".
"THE SPIRIT FOREST"?
NORTHWEST OF HERE LIES A FOREST THAT IS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS DURING MIDDAY.
THAT YOUNG WOMAN IS ONE OF THE SHAMANS WHO LIVES THERE.
THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN BELIEVE THAT IF THAT WARNING WERE EVER TO BE BREACHED A HUGE CATASTROPHE WILL BEFALL UPON THE WORLD, SO PEOPLE STAY AWAY.
DIADORA OF THE SPIRIT FOREST.

IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THAT GIRL EITHER.
WHAT KIND OF FOOLISHNESS IS THAT?
OCCASIONALLY THAT GIRL COMES TO THIS TOWN TO BUY FOOD.
BUT JUST AS YOU SAW EARLIER, SHE DOESN'T TRY TO CONNECT WITH ANYONE MORE THAN NECESSARY.

A CATASTROPHE WILL BEFALL THE WORLD...?

HAA
HAA
HAA..
.....
AAH

VERDANE CASTLE
HOW COME NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SAY IT YOU JUST DON'T GET IT?
YOU MUST STOP THIS WAR AT ALL COSTS!

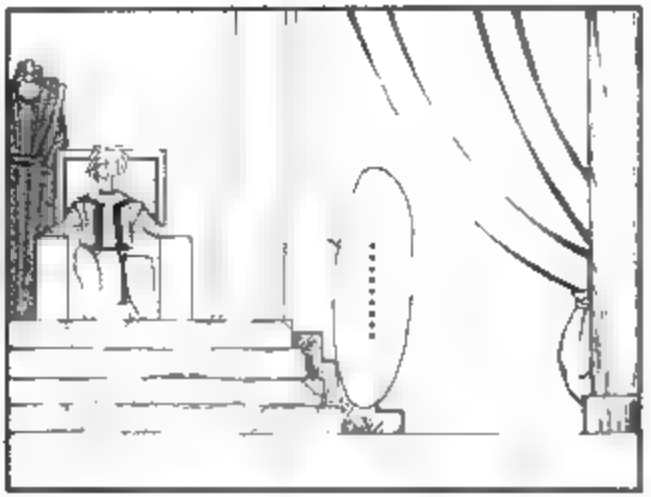
I'VE HEARD THAT GRANDBELL HAD PLANNED TO ASSAULT US FROM THE START..
AND IN THE END, DID THEY NOT END UP INVADING US?
I HAVE HEARD THAT LORD SIGURD OF GRANDBELL IS AN UNDERSTANDING PERSON.
IF YOU MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR PEACE, HE WILL SURELY GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.
BUT YOU KNOW JANKA...
DAD, YOU'RE... JUST BEING TRICKED!
ISN'T IT THE OPPOSITE!?
BY THAT DETESTABLE-EYED MAGE...
HAA
OH SANDIMA!!
...!

EVER SINCE YOU RETURNED TO THIS CASTLE, YOU HAVE BEEN GOING ON AND ON.
BUT, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
FUFUFU... WHY, LORD JAMKA.
THAT WAS QUITE A MEAN THING YOU SAID ABOUT ME JUST NOW.
THE CONVERSATIONS AMONG THE SOLDIERS ARE STARTING TO LABEL YOU AS A TRAITOR...
SUL
THAT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE!!

ADEAN...!
NGH...
THEN SALLY OUT, PRINCE JAMKA.
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, BESIEGE MARPHA
JUST TAKE THE HEAD OF THAT SIGURD FELLOW AND NO ONE WILL DARE TO SAY SUCH THINGS ABOUT YOU ANYMORE.
HOWEVER, WHEN I RETURN IT WILL BE THE END FOR YOU, SANDIMA..
YOU'D BEST PRAY FOR MY DEATH IN BATTLE.
OH?
MAY I ASK WHERE YOU ARE GOING?
...AS YOU DESIRE, I AM HEADING OFF TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

ONCE MORE...PLEASE THINK ABOUT OPTING FOR PEACE.....
OH, AND.. DAD....

PEACE...IS IT? SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD BE QUITE TROUBLESOME, KING BATOR.
HEH HEH...
...!?
AHH, YOU POOR THING..I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL.
JUST NOW YOU, ENDED UP PROVOKING THE WRATH OF THE KEEPERS OF HELL.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WHA
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

"NOW IS THE TIME THOU SHALL BE SACRIFICED."
"OH ENRAGED KEEPERS OF HELL"

..THAT IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER SEEN THAT CHILD MAKE SUCH AN EXPRESSION..
"PEACE" HUH? ..HOW ABOUT IT SANDIMA?
WHAT ARE YOU BLABBERING ABOUT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CONSIDERING THAT POSSIBILITY FOR A BIT ?

"YOTSMLINGAND"

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE...SANDIMA.

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

HEH..

ARCHBISHOP MANFROY ..

PRINCE JANKA HAS GONE TO ATTACK SIGURD AT MARPHA.....
I CAN JUST TELL THEM THAT THE KING HAS FALLEN ILL.
THEN I CAN MANIPULATE THE SOLDIERS TO DO AS I PLEASE.
BUT IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO HAVE KILLED THE KING, SANDIMA?
WILL THE SOLDIERS STILL LISTEN TO YOUR ORDERS?
FUFU..YOU NEED NOT CONCERN YOURSELF.

SIGURD...IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT BRAT WHO CARRIES THE BLOOD OF THE HOLY WARRIOR BALDO IN HIM THAT OUR PLANS HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DELAYED.
IF HE WASN'T AROUND, WE WOULD HAVE HAD HALF OF GRANDBELL OCCUPIED BY NOW ..

LET US LEAVE THE MATTER OF SIGURD TO PRINCE JAMKA.
HE IS THE KINGDOM'S BEST BOW FIGHTER...! HE WILL SEND AN ARROW THROUGH SIGURD'S THROAT FOR US.
LORD JAMKA.
ALL BOW FIGHTERS HAVE MADE THEIR PREPARATIONS AND ARE READY TO DEPART.
GOOD...THEN LET US HEAD FOR MARPHA CASTLE.
I AM UNABLE TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO YOU.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGH THAT OUR REUNION WOULD BE AS ENEMIES.
PERHAPS I AM RELIVING A BAD DREAM.
FOR-GIVE ME, ADEAN

HYUN
HYU CK
HYHYH
HYHN?
AT THE END OF THAT DREAM, YOU.
YOU WERE KILLED FROM BEING PIERCED IN THE CHEST BY ONE OF MY ARROWS
ADEAN.
!
AZEL. .OH NO, DID I WAKE YOU UP?
NO. I HEARD THE SOUND OF THE HARP AND. .
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
IT WAS IN THE STORAGE ROOM IN THE TOWER.

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM..
..I
I CAN'T SLEEP..
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE PERSON WHO RESCUED ME, PRINCE JAMKA, RIGHT?
YEAH, YOU SAID HE WENT TO PERSUADE HIS FATHER, THE KING...
THAT'S RIGHT. BUT...FOR SOME REASON, THINKING ABOUT THAT GIVES ME A BAD FEELING IN MY CHEST.
フォォ
..BY THE WAY, SANDIMA.
ABOUT THAT MATTER I SPOKE ABOUT, HOW IS IT COMING ALONG?

YOU REFER TO THE MATTER ABOUT "CIGYUN'S DAUGHTER", AM I CORRECT?
...ABOUT THAT, I HAVE YET TO...
HURRY AND FIND HER...THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SHE IS LIVING HERE IN VERDANE.
WHILE WE ARE WASTING OUR TIME REVIVING THE LOPUTO BLOODLINE, THOSE FOOLISH PEOPLE WHO SIDED WITH THAT MAIRA BOY ARE LIVING LONG FULFILLING LIVES...
IRONICALLY, IT IS THE DESCENDANTS OF THAT TRAITOR WHO REMAIN OUR ONLY HOPE.
AND MAIRA IMPOSED A PRECEPT ON HIS DESCENDANTS. THAT FOOLISH PRECEPT SAID...THAT A DESCENDANT MUST NEVER BEAR TWO CHILDREN OF THE OPPOSING SEX.
BUT, THANKS TO THAT CIGYUN WOMAN, THAT PRECEPT WAS BROKEN FOR US...
SANDIMA, DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS MEANS?
YES, LORD MANFROY.
IF HER TWO CHILDREN WERE TO CONCEIVE A CHILD TOGETHER,
THE DARK GOD WILL DESCEND INTO THAT CHILD.

THAT'S RIGHT...! AND SOON I WILL HAVE "CIGYLIN'S SON" IN THE PALM OF MY HANDS.
WE MUST HURRY AND RESURRECT THE DARK GOD LOPUTOUSHI AND TAKE BACK THE GLORY OF THE LOPUTO EMPIRE!!!
LET US SHOW THE PEOPLE THE HUMILIATION WE HAVE ENDURED UNDERGROUND EACH DAY FOR THE PAST 100 YEARS.
LET THE "DARKNESS" THAT THEY FEAR SO MUCH OVERTAKE THEIR WHOLE EXISTENCE...!

THAT IS BECAUSE THE "DARK-NESS" IS OUR "LIGHT".
PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO CHAPTER 5!

COMMENT

TRANSLATOR: TOMOYO
EDITOR: TOMOYO
SCANNER: AQUANTIS
PROOFREADER/QC: AQUANTIS, VINCENTASM, TRIMURTI

INFORMATION